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An Article by Gen. VO NGUYEN GIAP
GREAT VICTORIES GREAT TASKS

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HEAVY U.S. LOSSES IN BOTH ZONES OF VIET NAM

NORTH VIETNAM

2 B.52 STRATEGIC BOMBERS DOWNED OVER VINH LINH

☆

HAI PHONG: 14 PLANES GROUNDED ON SEPT. 17, 18 AND 21

☆

Sept. 17: The 2,300th U.S. Plane Downed over DRVN by the A.A. Defence of HA NOI

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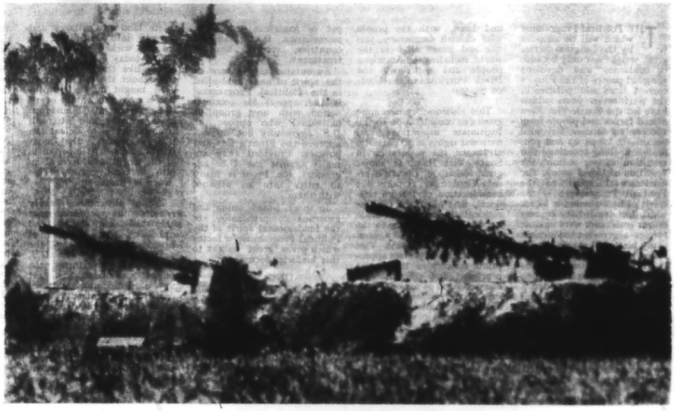
SOUTH VIETNAM

- QUANG TRI: 500 G.I.s Wiped Out, 10 Tanks and Armoured Cars Destroyed, 3 Planes Downed 6 Km South of Con Tien (Sept. 10).
- THUA THIEN: — 300 G.I.s and Puppet Troops Wiped Out, 6 M.113s Burnt or Damaged, 2 Choppers Downed (Sept. 3, 5 and 7).

  — In the Centre of Hue City: 60 U.S. and Puppet Troops and a Platoon of Field Policemen Put out of Action.
- QUANG NAM: — A Puppet Ranger Battalion Virtually Wiped Out at Que Son (Sept. 13).

  — 40 Helicopters Destroyed, 150 G.I.s Killed or Wounded on Nuoc Man Airfield (Aug. 27).
- NINH THUAN: 150 U.S. Aircraft Downed by Light Firearms Including 5 B57s and 30 L19s (Feb. 1966 — July 1967).
- MY THO: 800 Enemy Soldiers Put out of Action, 39 Military Vehicles Destroyed or Damaged in One Week (Aug. 31 — Sept. 6).



An A.A. Battery in Hai Phong

A PROGRAMME VOICING THE DETERMINATION TO DEFEAT THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS

(Excerpts from allocutions at the Extraordinary Congress of the South Viet Nam N.F.L.)

THE N.F.L. Political Programme points out to the entire people the only correct path to complete the national democratic revolution in South Viet Nam, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and achieve eventually the peaceful reunification of the country. This is the road to life for our nation. Only by following this road, by actively struggling to implement the N.F.L. Political Programme can the labouring people and other strata of the population in South Viet Nam shake off slavery, secure for themselves and their off-springs a life in honour, happiness and abundance, and put an end to all the sufferings and humiliations imposed upon them by the American aggressors and their stooges.

... Continuing the 10-Point Programme, this Political Programme will certainly open up brilliant prospects. Never has the future of our people looked so bright. Inspired by boundless enthusiasm and confidence, the working class and toiling masses pledge themselves to translate this Political Programme into concrete deeds, march forward and deal more stunning blows at the U.S. aggressors and their valets in their nerve centres and rear bases, and at the same time to serve more efficaciously the fight against U.S. aggression, and for the protection of the people's life...

PHAN XUAN THAI
Presidium Member of the N.F.L. Central Committee, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions.

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THIS Programme is of special significance for the South Viet Nam youth. Each line and policy in the Programme guarantees for the youth, immediate or long-term rights, rights for their class or for their age. In fulfilling it, the South Viet Nam people will first of all defeat the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys and enjoy independence and a broad democracy. For the youth this means that nobody will be pressganged to serve as cannon-fodder for the U.S. aggressors, nobody will be unemployed and destitute, nobody will be evicted from his house, the young men will no longer be poisoned or depraved by an obscurantist culture and the young girls will not be turned into cheap playthings for the U.S. aggressors.

The South Viet Nam youth do not flinch from hardships and sacrifices when their country is still trampled underfoot by the invaders and their compatriots still face misery. As long as the U.S. aggressors and their henchment remain on our soil, our people and our youth will lose everything: their country, houses, fields, lives, dignity and future happiness. When the U.S. aggressors are defeated, our people and our youth will have everything. Therefore, the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Students fully agrees with the Front's Political Programme and regards as the common task of our entire people the fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation and the building of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and the eventual peaceful reunification of the country. The South Viet Nam youth consider the fight against U.S. aggression for national salvation their most sacred task for the fulfilment of which they pledge themselves to march in the van...

TRAN BACH DANG
Presidium Member of the N.F.L. Central Committee, President of the Liberation Federation of South Viet Nam Youth.

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IMPELLED forward by their great successes, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have foiled the enemy's two-pincer strategic plan. They have won victory in the last Winter-Spring campaign. They are winning a still greater victory in this Winter-Spring. Fourteen million South Viet Nam people have smashed two dry-season counter-offensive plans of the U.S. aggressors and their stooges, and are relentlessly attacking them from Tri-Thien to Ca Mau in this rainy season, inflicting upon them ever heaviest defeats.

The convening of the Extraordinary Congress by the South Viet Nam N.F.L. in this historical month of August to sanction the Political Programme is of paramount importance in this historical period when our armed forces and people are holding the initiative of operations on all battlefields, forging ahead without let up, striking hard, winning resounding victories, driving the enemy into a corner when our Southern compatriots are fighting under the glorious banner of the National Front for Liberation to wipe out the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, when our Northern compatriots are devotedly fulfilling their sacred obligation as the great rear toward the great front, when the peace-loving people throughout the world are sympathizing with, and supporting, the South Vietnamese people's struggle.

The Programme reflects the inmost feelings and aspirations of the various strata of the South Vietnamese people who are highly indignant at the monstrous crimes of the U.S. puppets and determined to fight a life and death struggle with them, it enhances the unity among women and encourages them to devote more zeal, talent and labour and make greater contributions to the liberation of the nation and of women.

In the days to come the enemy will hatch more perfidious schemes. Parallel with their "peace negotiation" swindle, the U.S. aggressors will land more troops in South Viet Nam and the war will gain in fierceness and atrocity.

The South Viet Nam women are determined to overcome all hardships, make every sacrifice and pledge themselves to serve as an efficient arm of the Front in the forthcoming tough fighting.

NGUYEN THI DINH
Presidium Member of the N.F.L. Central Committee, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Women.

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A PROGRAMME OF BROAD UNION

(Excerpts from allocutions at the Extraordinary Congress of the South Viet Nam N.F.L.)

THE Political Programme which will be adopted by the Congress carries great weight not only because it continues and develops the good points of the Front's correct lines and policies in the past seven years which have led the South Viet Nam armed forces and people from success to success, but also because it keeps up and promotes a long-standing fine tradition of our nation: the tradition of broad union. The fundamental spirit of the Political Programme is the spirit of broad union, a factor which has decided the success of our resistance wars against foreign aggression throughout many historical stages. Union takes pride of place in the Political Programme. This spirit underlies the building up of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam as well as the relations between North and South and the peaceful reunification of the country. This spirit encompasses the relations with all nationalist countries, first of all neighbouring Cambodia and Laos, with the people who cherish democracy, justice and peace all over the world, including the American people and especially the Black Americans in the United States.

This historic programme gives due consideration to the legitimate aspirations and national rights of all patriotic strata of the population in South Viet Nam. It shows great solicitude toward overseas Vietnamese. It takes due consideration of foreign residents, first of all the Chinese residents for they have made a valuable contribution to the struggle against U.S. aggression to liberate South Viet Nam. It also expresses appropriate concern in the puppet armymen and officials that are possessed of national feelings. Even those who work against the national interests and those who owe blood debts to the people are forgiven and led back onto the right path, provided they have not lost all conscience. Prisoners of war, be they puppet or American troops or mercenaries from satellite countries, receive humane treatment.

An outstanding feature of the spirit of union embodied in the Political Programme is the appeal for common action with any group or individual who oppose the U.S. aggressors but do not approve the Front's line and policies. Provided they are really against the U.S. aggressors, the Front is ready to enter into an alliance with them.

In short, broad union and generous comprehension are the fundamental spirit of the Political Programme, a factor which gives great weight to this historic document...

UNG NGOC KY
Delegate of the South Viet Nam Democratic Party

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LIKE Adrok in an Ede legend who could turn forest into ricefield, waste land into villages and poverty into wealth to get rid of a wicked tribal chieftain, today the highland people like their compatriots throughout the country have been taught by the revolution a magic to obtain every thing from nil, abundance from scarcity and strength from weakness to defeat the U.S. aggressors, the most cruel and die-hard imperialists in the world, and drive them into a tight corner. This magic is union.

...The Programme truly reflects the people's most cherished aspirations and upholds the banner of broad union to defeat the aggressive war of the U.S. imperialists, overthrow the puppet administration, set up a democratic union coalition government, build up an independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous Viet Nam and achieve eventual national reunification. The Programme promotes the tradition of union among the nationalities to defeat foreign aggressors, give due consideration to the rights of all strata of the people, leads those who go astray back to the right path and blaze the trail for our people to win complete victory.

This spirit of union is also embodied in the specific policies to build South Viet Nam. Only by strengthening the union among the nationalities, between plain dwellers and highlanders can we wipe out the U.S.-aggressors and their henchmen and achieve independence and freedom. Once the country is completely liberated the union among the nationalities between plain dwellers and mountaineers must be further strengthened to build a rich and strong country, assert the people's right as masters of the highlands and bring about a life of plenty and happiness...

YBI ALEO
Delegate of the Western High Plateaux nationalities

SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. POLITICAL PROGRAMME WELCOMED IN THE WORLD*

STATEMENTS OF PARTY AND STATE LEADERS

U.S.S.R.

AT a ceremony held on Sept. 16, 1967 in Moscow to receive the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., L. I. Brejnev, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union highly praised the victories of the South Viet Nam army and people and the Political Programme. He regarded the latter as an important document to unite all the South Viet Nam people in the struggle to defeat the U.S. aggressors and the Saigon quislings and to blaze the trail for the building up of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and at the same time as a real political weapon to counter the peace hoax of the U.S.

L.I. Brejnev declared, "The Communist Party and people of the Soviet Union unswervingly support the struggle of the South Viet Nam people till final victory."

KOREA

CHOI YONG KUN, executive member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stressed, "The Political Programme was issued just at a time when the South Viet Nam people, led by the Front, won success after success. This testifies to the unqualified correctness of the lines and policies of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. — the sole genuine representative of the South Viet Nam people. The Workers' Party, Government and Supreme People's Council of the D.P.R. of Korea wholeheartedly support this Political Programme and will do their best to back the just struggle of the South Viet Nam people until complete victory."

CUBA

PRESIDENT Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado declared on Sept. 13, "The Cuban Party, Government and people fully support the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and constantly stand at the side of the Vietnamese people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists' aggression for self-liberation. They are convinced that the South Viet Nam people and N.F.L. will certainly defeat the U.S. aggressors and win final victory."

HUNGARY

GYULA KALLAI, member of the Political Bureau of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, Chairman of the National Assembly and Chairman of the Patriotic People's Front, in Hungary declared, "With new clear-cut amendments, the Political Programme expresses the policy of broad national union of the Front, its concern about the interests of the grass-root masses such as the peasantry and of other sections of the people. The struggle waged by the South Viet Nam people is going on successfully. I am convinced that this Programme will bring the resistance war of the South Viet Nam people to a new high."

POLAND

ON Sept. 18, Edward Ochab, Chairman of the State Council of Poland and Chairman of the National Committee of the National United Front of the People's Republic of Poland declared: "I am convinced that this Political Programme will meet the requirements of the present situation and unite the entire people of South Viet Nam more closely to bring the resistance war to victory. The struggle of the Vietnamese people safeguards independence and freedom not only for themselves but also for the Polish people and other peoples, and defends peace and freedom in the world. The Polish people are greatly concerned in the goals mentioned in this Political Programme and wholeheartedly support them."

MONGOLIA

S. LUVSAN, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary People's Party of Mongolia, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mongolia stated that the outcome of the extraordinary congress of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and its Political Programme reflected the aspirations of the South Viet Nam people to entirely liberate the country from the grip of U.S. imperialism and secure their right to be masters of their country.

* See Viet Nam Courier No 129.

The Viet Nam War: U.S. Neo-Colonialism and the National-Liberation Movement in South Viet Nam

FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR NATIONAL LIBERATION

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ARE RESOLVED TO FOIL THE U.S. WAR OF AGGRESSION

AS we have pointed out, the hub of the Viet Nam problem is that the Americans are conducting an aggressive war against the national-liberation movement of the Vietnamese people. In South Viet Nam, although they still have to rely on the puppet army and puppet administration, to which they have lagged a faked independence, after the failure of their "special war," the U.S. imperialists have introduced nearly 500,000 expeditionary troops for direct involvement in a war of aggression much more brutal than any of conquest waged by the colonialists in earlier centuries. In the North, they have brazenly unleashed a war of destruction against the D.R.V.N., an independent and sovereign state. This war of aggression has not only given rise to an extremely serious situation in Viet Nam but also threatened peace in South-East Asia and the rest of the world.

The fact that over 30 million people of a small country, firmly convinced of the strength of their union, have resolutely and courageously risen up successfully against the aggressor coming from the richest and most powerful country of the capitalist world and are driving him into an irremediable stalemate has become a matter of daily concern of freedom and justice lovers round the world.

FOR nearly a century the Vietnamese people have shed a lot of blood to win their independence and freedom, and fight for national liberation and human dignity. They have defeated the French colonialists and Japanese fascists and founded a democratic state stretching from North to South. After nine years of resistance and following the victory of Dien Bien Phu, the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam have had to recognise the most sacred fundamental rights of our nation. In one half of our country completely liberated, a better life is being built, but the other half, South Viet Nam, is still under blood, sword and fire.

Today, in the face of U.S. aggression, it is imperative for our people to wage a second war of resistance to save the country, complete national liberation and, on this basis and according to the wishes of the people in both zones, proceed towards the peaceful reunification of the country artificially cut in two.

"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." Our people are ready to make all necessary sacrifices to attain their final goal. Fighting for Viet Nam's independence and freedom is at the same time an important international duty, because nowadays this fight is closely associated with the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America for national liberation and that of the world's people for peace, democracy and social progress against the common enemies — U.S. imperialism and its followers.

The U.S. imperialists have jumped into Viet Nam, choosen Viet Nam and used South Viet Nam as a testing ground for their neo-colonialism, for various forms of "special war," for the most brutal weapons of mass destruction, in their bid to oppose the struggle against oppression, for national liberation in other areas of the world. For this reason, our people's struggle has enjoyed the broad sympathy and support of many peoples and countries in the world.

Today, our people in both South and North Viet Nam are going from one great victory to another and driving the enemy into an unprecedented stalemate. The more than 30 million people of our country are enthusiastically marching forward to complete national liberation. In his recent letter to Mr. Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., President Ho Chi Minh once again asserted:

"Neither bombs nor shells can cow our people, and no wily words can deceive them. We Vietnamese, are resolved to fight until not a single U.S. aggressor remains on our beloved land, ...and are sure to successfully achieve the liberation of the South, defence of the North and eventual peaceful reunification of the country."

In its recently adopted Political Programme, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. has laid down the tasks and objectives of the South Vietnamese people in the struggle for national salvation as follows: "To unite the entire people, resolutely defeat the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, overthrow their lackey puppet administration, establish a broad national democratic coalition administration, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and proceed towards the peaceful reunification of the country."

THE present tension originates from the aggression by Washington. The simplest logic is for the U.S. to end this aggression, withdraw its own and satellite troops and their military bases from South Viet Nam, and stop the air war against the D.R.V.N. unconditionally.

An ending of the aggression in South Viet Nam cannot be dissociated from the elimination of the so-called commitment of the U.S. Government to the traitorous puppet ruling clique in Saigon and the abolition of the puppet regime — a prop to maintain neo-colonialism in this form or that — as well as its vestiges in different fields. In the winning and consolidation of their independence, many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America have gained experiences in opposing the continued presence of the out going imperialists and colonialists first of all American. The Vietnamese people who are facing up to all the manoeuvres and intrigues of the White House have also clearly realized that.

Being forced to take up arms and fight relentlessly for nearly a quarter of a century to gain and preserve independence and freedom, the Vietnamese people, more than anybody else, earnestly desire to live in peace and happiness. However, we can never accept a sham peace, a peace in concentration camps at the point of the bayonets of the aggressors and the local rulers at the pay of foreign countries. The choice is to achieve, at all costs, the fundamental national rights and, through them, a genuine peace, a peace in independence and freedom of a unified country with territorial integrity.

MEN of conscience around the world have clearly realized that the only way to end the Viet Nam war is for them to condemn and demand an end to the U.S. war of aggression, support the fight for national liberation of the Vietnamese people and affirm their fundamental national rights.

While stepping up and widening the war, the U.S. imperialists never tire of rehashing their deceitful profession of peace. While they are exhorting the massive use of air and naval power and the ground force to win the war more quickly, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and President Johnson incessantly and hypocritically talk about their good-will for peace. No threatening words of the U.S. imperialists can intimidate the Vietnamese people. Neither can their false talks about peace fool the Vietnamese people and the world at large. On the contrary, the White House's "stick and carrot" policy has failed bitterly and is doomed to utter failure.

AT present, public opinion in the world, including the U.S., is increasing pressure, resolutely demanding that the U.S. authorities stop bombing North Viet Nam, withdraw their troops from South Viet Nam and recognise the South Viet Nam N.F.L. as the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people.

(Continued page 6)

Failure of the U.S. Air War of Destruction in North Viet Nam

ON Sept. 17, 1967, in a lightning and well-fought engagement, the Hanoi air defence force brought down one U.S. jet soon after it had intruded into the city's air space. It was the 2,300th U. S. plane downed over North Viet Nam since Aug. 5, 1964. A few hours later, the Vinh Linh area, at the fire line just north of the 17th parallel, chalked up a marvellous victory by blasting down 2 B.52 strategic aircraft within only 30 minutes.

On the same day, Haiphong port city bagged 3 more U.S. jets. The next day, another 4 jets were grounded in another series of battles and on Sept. 21 a great victory was won by that city in downing 7 planes in 2 raids in the afternoon. Since Aug. 29, in their new attacks against Haiphong, 26 U.S. air marauders have been knocked down.

Victories have come in quick succession across our country, giving a strong impetus to our anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation and encouraging us to rush forward and crush the enemy.

VICTORIES THAT SPRING FROM THE DETERMINATION TO WIN

SINCE mid-August, in an effort to extricate themselves from their predicament and stalemate in South Viet Nam, the U.S. rulers have been stepping up their raids against North Viet Nam. They have poured more bombs and shells and made series of attacks on the capital of Hanoi and other populated areas. They have extended their air strikes to the Viet Nam China borderland and blatantly encroached upon the territory of People's China. On Aug. 31, the White House and the Pentagon gave the start to a new escalation with the so-called "oracle plan", attacking Haiphong port city wave after wave, and for many days in a row with as targets various economic installations and residential quarters in the heart of the city. These bombing raids have caused serious losses of life and property among civilians and entailed grave political consequences which have been condemned by the world at large.

In the Vinh Linh area in particular, even in the Demilitarized Zone north of the 17th parallel, the Americans have constantly been using super-flying fortresses in almost all daily bombing raids for the destruction of whole hamlets and whole villages. To recoup their losses on the Quang Tri-Thua Thien battlefield at the hands of the L.A.F., and to prepare for the erection of the so-called "Mc Namara wall," they have flouted the statute of the Demilitarized Zone as provided in the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and committed barbarous crimes against the people of North Viet Nam and mankind as well. They want to bring pressure to bear on the Vietnamese people with bombs and shells. However, the above-mentioned victories have opened their eyes to the fact that the higher they escalate, the more they will receive due retaliatory blows. These victories were possible thanks to our people's hatred of the enemy and their determination to fight and to win.

ONLY 27 days elapsed between the downing of the 2,200th and the 2,300 th U.S. planes, both in Hanoi's air space. This quick rate is worthy of notice. It marked the great progress made by North Viet Nam's anti-aircraft defence in the face of increased enemy attacks. On Aug. 21, Aug. 31 and Sept. 3, the kill list for a single day surpassed the 10 mark. In countering the air intruders, various air defence forces performed skilful co-

(Continued page 6)

B. 52 STRATEGIC BOMBERS DOWNED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY NORTH VIET NAM DEFENCE OVER VINH LINH ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1967

ON Sept. 17, 1967 B. 52 bombers of the U.S. strategic air command raided Vinh Linh area, north of the 17th parallel. At 5.03 p.m. our A.A. batteries there downed one B.52 before it could release its bombload. At 5.30 p.m., another B.52 was hit and exploded in the sky of Vinh Linh.

Let us recall that B.52s, nicknamed *Stratofortresses*, are the biggest American planes (56.40 metres in span, 47.5 metres in length and 14 metres in height), the heaviest (weighing over 200 tons and carrying a load of 10 tons) and the most powerful aircraft (operated by 8 turbo-jet engines and having a cruising speed of 900 km/h).

B.52s were first based in Guam in the Pacific, then in Utapao (Thailand) since the beginning of 1967. They operate within a radius of 5,000km.

They were first used on June 18, 1965 in a raid against South Viet Nam. Up to now they have flown over 10,000 sorties.

They began to attack the D.R.V.N. on Apr. 12, 1966 and since then have carried out carpet-bombing especially in Vinh Linh area against which they mounted 80 raids between Aug. 31 and Sep. 16, 1967.

This new exploit of our A.A. defence shows that B.52 strategic bombers are no longer immune from our blows despite their high flying altitude (16,000 metres).

Rural militia salvaging the wreckage of a U.S. plane

HEROIC HAIPHONG: 14 U. S. PLANES DOWNED ON SEPTEMBER 17, 18 AND 21

ON Sept. 17, 18, and 21 aircraft of the U.S. Navy again raided Haiphong, a city of 198,000 souls, hitting many populated quarters in the heart of the city. Our A.A. batteries inflicted heavy losses on the enemy: three fighter-bombers were downed on Sept. 17 and on Sept. 18, two planes were downed in the morning and two others in the afternoon; on Sept. 21, 7 planes were grounded in two raids in the afternoon.

Thus since Aug. 29, 1967 in their raids on that main port of the D.R.V.N., the Yankees have lost 28 planes, two on Aug. 29, 5 on Aug. 31 (including a chopper coming to the rescue of the pilots downed), one on the 2nd, 3 on the 4th, one on the 9th, 2 on the 11th and 14 on the 17th, 18th and 21st of September 1967, thus bringing the total number of planes downed over Haiphong to 139 up to September 21, 1967.

Factory militia in Haiphong

ON September 16, 1967 the number of U.S. planes downed in North Viet Nam already reached 2,298. Together with Hanoi and other provinces, Haiphong bustled with preparations to down the 2,300th U.S. plane.

Those who had no job to stay already left the city. On their part, self-defence fighters in the factories and city quarters hastened to ask for more equipment. The number increased of those who volunteered to take up combat duty. In each area the self-defence fighters in the factories met with their counterparts in the city quarters to discuss the setting up of gun nests in accordance with the general plan of defence. Those who had asked to help the A. A. gunners were divided into units while those who were willing to stay back to deal with the after-effects of the enemy raid readied themselves. The Haiphong population were determined to score achievements to greet the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

It was a fine weather on the morning of September 17. At 6 a.m. the city observation posts spotted many flights of enemy planes off the coast. Suddenly the marauders darted into the city. One flight dive-bombed but was intercepted immediately by our batteries. The leading F.4H was hit by self-defence fighters. The second, an A.4, hastened to escape but, hit in the body, it plummeted into the sea like a torch.

The Haiphong armymen and people had just downed the 2,299th plane. They were agog to wait the 2,300th.

Meanwhile the self-defence fighters in Hanoi were also eager to achieve exploits. At 9 a.m. on the same day they received the order to stand ready. At 9.10 an explosion echoed from the ground. One missile

(Continued page 6)

THE U.S. LOST 109 PLANES IN 27 DAYS (Aug. 21 – Sept. 17)
THE 2,300TH PLANE DOWNED BY THE A.A. DEFENCE OF HANOI

Gerald Santo Venanzi, *USAF lieutenant, service number F.V. 3,173,807, born June 30, 1944, one of the pilots manning a RF-4C Phantom, the 2,300th plane flowned by Hanoi A. A. batteries*

TWENTY-SEVEN days after Hanoi's anti-aircraft defence had brought down the 2,200th U.S. plane, on Sept. 17, the 2,300th was grounded by a missile unit over the capital city.

U.S. losses have been listed at an accelerated rate. Between Aug. 22 and 31, the people's armed forces of the D.R.V.N. shot down 47 enemy planes (average: 5 per day). In the first days of September, another 24 U.S. planes were registered in the kill-list. On Aug. 23, and 31 and Sept. 3, more than 10 enemy aircraft were downed per day. Of the 109 planes knocked out by our defence between Aug. 21 and Sept. 17, 26 were downed on the spot and 6 during night fighting.

All the armed services of the Viet Nam People's Army had brilliant exploits to their credit in the period under review.

The peasant and worker militia, between Aug. 26 and Sept. 11, brought down 20 U.S. jets with light infantry weapons, scoring 2 kills per day on Aug. 31, Sept. 2 and 9. The peasant militia of Le Thuy district, Quang Binh province, during night fighting on Aug. 26 and Sept. 5, shot down on the spot 2 supersonic fighter-bombers of the *F.4 Phantom* type. Other successes of the militia were obtained in the provinces of Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa and Ninh Binh and in the periphery of Haiphong.

Conventional anti-aircraft batteries well deserved their reputation by bringing down the largest number of enemy planes. Between Aug. 23 and Sept. 5, those in Quang Binh shot down 15 (12 on the spot and 5 during night fighting) and on Aug. 27 and Sept. 11 2 *Canberra* B.57 twin-jet bombers. Those in Nghe An, in 3 hours (from noon to 3.15 p.m.) on Aug. 30, bagged 3 U.S. planes.

The missile units also proved very effective. Forcing the enemy to fly at low altitude to evade their blows, they hurled him into the heavy fire barrage woven by anti-aircraft batteries of various calibres and light weapons of the militia and infantry. More often than not, flights of U.S. planes broke off their formations at the sight of these engines whistling skyward, thus unable to accomplish their missions and becoming prey to our interceptors. The latter, for their part, also destroyed many enemy planes, including 5 in the sky of Hanoi on Aug. 23 and 31 and Sept. 17 (the 2,300th).

In this 27-day period, the **People's Air Force** knocked out 4 U.S. planes in dog fights over Hanoi on Aug. 23, one over Phu Tho on Aug. 31, one over Son La and another over Hanoi on Sept. 10 and 2 over Son La again on Sept. 16.

In addition, **shore batteries** hit 7 U.S. warships between Aug. 25 and Sept. 2. The Cruiser *Saint Paul* and the destroyer *Dupont* were seriously damaged off Vinh Linh and the enemy had to use 10 helicopters to evacuate the dead and wounded on board these two warships.

37th ANNIVERSARY OF NGHE AN – HA TINH SOVIET

PRODUCTION AND FIGHTING in NGHE AN

THIRTY-SEVEN years ago, the Nghe An and Ha Tinh people rose up against the feudalists and French colonialists' harsh oppression and set up Soviet power in many parts of the provinces, thus touching off a new revolutionary movement. Since then, the undying Nghe-Tinh (Nghe An—Ha Tinh) flames have continued to burn, brighter and brighter, in the hearts of the Vietnamese people and especially among the Nghe An and Ha Tinh people. For three years now, the U.S. imperialists have constantly been conducting with air and naval forces fierce terrorist raids against

(Continued page 7)

U.S. EXTERMINATING ATTACKS MUST BE ENDED!

ON Sept. 19, the Foreign Ministry of the D.R.V.N. issued a statement condemning the exterminating air and naval attacks recently conducted by the U.S. aggressors on the Demilitarized Zone, Vinh Linh area and Quang Binh province, North Viet Nam.

Follows the full text of the statement:

"For nearly two months now, U.S. aircraft, warships and artillery based south of the Demilitarized Zone have day and night bombed and shelled very savagely Vinh Linh area and Quang Binh province, from provincial and district capitals to rural areas. So far, virtually no hamlet or village in Vinh Linh and Quang Binh have been spared by U.S. bombs and shells. To commit their crimes, the U.S. imperialists have used most cruel methods such as increasing night raids, conducting carpet and co-ordinate map bombings, and repeated bombings of each area, and using many kinds of weapons such as high explosive, napalm, phosphorus and steel-pellet bombs, missiles, rockets, etc.

In particular, the U.S. has used B-52 planes to bomb the Demilitarized Zone and villages just north of it to a more and more serious extent.

In the first six months of 1967, on an average, U.S. B.52 planes bombed this zone once or twice a month.

Last July, they carried out 12 raids on the western part of the Demilitarized Zone.

Particularly since mid-August, U.S. B-52 bombing raids have increased to more than 80 and have been extended even to the eastern part of the Demilitarized Zone which is a heavily populated area.

Such villages as Vinh Truong and Vinh Son in the Demilitarized Zone and Vinh Thuy just north of it have been bombed dozens of times.

The aforesaid barbarous bombings and shellings conducted by the U.S. have caused serious losses to the local population: many houses were destroyed and many civilians killed or wounded.

It is clear that these bombing raids having an exterminating character are aimed at massacring the civilian population, razing whole hamlets or villages and systematically destroying the people's life and means of living.

The U.S. ruling circles have constantly talked of "peace" and "negotiations" but in reality they have repeatedly conducted bloody raids in South Viet Nam, and at the same time barbarously attacked Hanoi capital and Haiphong city, the Cam Pha port and many other populated areas, and have conducted exterminating raids on the Demilitarized Zone, the Vinh Linh area and Quang Binh province. There is no doubt that they are obdurately intensifying and widening their aggressive war in Viet Nam, piling up extremely savage crimes against the Vietnamese people.

The D.R.V.N. Government energetically denounces the above-said odious crimes of the U.S.

The D.R.V.N. Government calls on the Governments and people of the brother socialist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries and people of conscience in the world, for the honour of mankind, to raise their voice vigorously and take resolute actions so as to stay the bloody hands of the American war criminals.

The more brutal and savage the U.S. aggressors are, the more the Vietnamese people hate them, and the more the world people curse them. They will surely meet with the Vietnamese people's iron-like determination and will receive due punishing return blows. The downing of two B-52 aircraft on September 17, 1967 by the D.R.V.N. people's armed forces constitutes a stern warning to the U.S. aggressors. No savage manoeuvre can save them from complete defeat."

HAIPHONG...

(Continued from page 5)

zoomed up, followed by a trail of white smoke. Another explosion was heard. The 2,300th U.S. plane was set afire over the city and crashed in the west. The Hanoi population was jubilant. The fighters defending the capital were worthy of being the sons of the heart of a heroic land.

At 12 20 the Haiphong armymen readied themselves. Soon the raiders ran across an intense fire. An F-4 was set afire.

Though twice beaten, the U.S. pirates kept on attacking. But they lost a third plane on the same day over the city.

The next day September 18, the marauders came with new tricks. Now they flew in many formations from many directions. Now they came by two's to strike at many targets at the same time. Now one flew low while another hovered above. Now the leading plane dived to drop its bombload, followed by a second which rapidly soared up. But cunning as the adversary was, he could not evade the accurate blows of the Haiphong armymen and people. That day he lost 4 planes.

By downing 14 U.S. planes on September 17, 18 and 21 Haiphong scored an outstanding exploit though it did not hit the 2,300th. This deed evinced a high determination in training and fighting. Two units of militia-women named after South Viet Nam heroines Ta Thi Kieu and Nguyen Thi Ut were rated as excellent in the last drill organized by the city.

The Haiphong fighters' dedication in training was best reflected by their behaviour in face of the enemy. At the fighting site of Platoon 134, commander Minh stood on a high tower, above the smoke raised by the enemy bombs and bullets so that his men could easily see his banner. At Battery 5 leader Pham Viet Long, hit in his jaw, motioned his mates to keep calm with one hand and upheld his banner with the other. Tran Cong Ham, leader at a self-defence unit, thrown out of his defence work by a blast, rushed back to his position and with all his men tore their jackets to clean their weapons and went on fighting.

There were still many examples of good behaviour among the self-defence fighters in the factories and city quarters. The worker Le Chi Dung swam across the Cam River amidst enemy fire to join his unit and help the victims of the raids. Self-defence fighters in Hong Bang quarters, one of the hardest hit areas brushed aside a theatrical rehearsal to greet Mid-Autumn Festival and hurriedly went to the rescue of the population. Workers at a steel foundry did not leave their work for fear of spoiling a good casting. Heads of handicraft co-operatives volunteered to serve as A.A. gunners.

After two years fighting off the U.S. war of destruction the armymen and people of Haiphong like other places in North Viet Nam had managed to carry out well both production and fighting. Thus, after each engagement they calmly reviewed the fighting and drew experiences for the next battle. They inquired about each other family right on the bombcraters afterdoing rescue work. They cordially reproached their friends who were ill but did not want to stay at home. They chatted and laughed on their way home after repairing a broken dyke section, thus timely preventing many ricefields from being flooded.

The Haiphong people were glad at the achievement of Hanoi in downing the 2,300th U.S. plane. They were happy to hear the news that Vinh Linh population had brought down two B.52 strategic bombers. They were elated at their own feat in smashing 14 enemy planes within five days and restricting the damage caused by the raiders. Confident in their success they joyfully bought paper unicorns, magic lanterns and sweetmeats for their children for the Mid-Autumn Festival.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S SABOTAGE OF REPATRIATION OF KOREAN RESIDENTS PROTESTED

TO sabotage the repatriation of the Korean residents in Japan, the Japanese Government of late has declared its unilateral abrogation of the repatriation agreement signed in 1959 between the Red Cross societies of Korea and Japan, and closed the Reception Offices of Repatriation Application of Korean residents in Japan. The Japanese authorities even repressed Korean residents who have struggled for their legitimate rights to return to their fatherland.

In its September 14, 1967 statement, the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry stressed:

"... In unilaterally abrogating the said agreement, the Japanese Government has grossly trampled upon the democratic national rights of Korean citizens in Japan and violated international law and practice. This constitutes a hostile act against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and a challenge to the Japanese people and all justice-loving people in the world."

"Following the signing of the 'ROK-Japan treaty' and many other hostile acts against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the feverish sabotage of the repatriation operation of Korean nationals in Japan by the Japanese authorities once again proves that the latter are increasing their collusion with the Pak Jung Hi clique to serve more effectively the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression and war.

"The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people have many times condemned these unlawful and brazen acts of the Japanese authorities.

"The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people fully support the just position and legitimate demands of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as expounded in the September 9, 1967 statement of the spokesman of the D.P.R.K. Foreign Ministry.

"The Japanese Government must revert immediately its unlawful decision to cancel the agreement on the repatriation of Korean citizens in Japan; extend the agreement without amendment; put an end to all its schemes to prevent the repatriation of those Korean citizens who want to return to their Fatherland."

PRODUCTION AND FIGHTING...

(Continued from page 5)

Nghe An especially its main city, Vinh and its port, Ben Thuy.

We visited Nghe An at a time when the people were resolutely fighting natural calamities and making good the destruction caused by the enemy so as to record new successes in the production field. Before the U.S. imperialists launched their war of destruction against North Viet Nam, it was almost inconceivable that an annual paddy output of five tons per hectare could ever be reached on this arid land. But when the peasants have filled up the bomb craters to turn them into ricefields, made ploughs from bomb splinters and mines from explosives, got fertilizer from limestone, this five-ton output has been achieved in more and more extensive areas in the delta and mountain region of the province. Last year, the co-op of Hong Son, Quynh Luu district, where each hectare of ricefield was ploughed by tons of bombs, produced in six tons of paddy per hectare. This year, despite a step-up of U.S. bombing, the co-op recorded a seven-ton per hectare yield on many fields. While planting the "seven tons" board on their ricefields, the Hong Son co-op members have set their minds on "winning a greater victory than the last year over the U.S. aggressors." The target on the production front has been a hard one in Nghe An, especially in the field of irrigation. It happened that many dams were subjected each to over 30 bombardments, and a small water reservoir was struck 18 times. But, within only a short period of time, the Nghe An people built 162 more water reservoirs and dams, dug an extra 1,200 km of canalsand spent thousands of workdays to irrigate or drain their fields. If it not rain for three months on end in this province recently but thanks to a comprehensive irrigation network, rice planting was done in time, and the recent summer rice crop was the best ever.

We visited a family in Do Luong district at a moment when the housewife was drying paddy. "Never did we record such a good crop as this," she said to us with a smile. "How precious our paddy is as it is grown at the cost of our sweat and blood!" It is to reap this paddy that sweet mothers, skilful wives in Viet Cong Ham taken up the ploughs and improved the method of planting. It is to obtain this paddy that linemen have climbed up electric posts to connect high tension wires at the very moment when U.S. planes were pouring bombs. The U.S. imperialists thought that they could, by bombing many times the Vinh power plant, cut off electricity in the province. In the last three years all the six crops were given enough water brought in by electric pumps. Hero Huynh Ngoc Du, the typical example of staunch and creative electrician working in Nghe An, once volunteered to do the job of a whole turbine worker team. U.S. bombs exploded under his feet and tossed him against the wall, he managed to keep the current through. As he often stated, what is most fearful is not the U.S. bomb blast but the irregular noise of a working Diesel engine.

To be successful in the building of regional industry despite U.S. air raids, the Nghe An people have extracted coal from their own soil. Defying frequent air raids, the workers at a coal mine were resolved to produce this year three times as much coal as a the previous year. At every U.S. bombardment of the coal mining area, the Vo Thi Phuong transport team jumped out to fill up the bomb craters and readjust the rails to ensure their transport plan. It happened that once U.S. bombs blasted the entrance to the mine gallery soon after Phan Van Tri's extraction team got in. This did not disturb its work at all. At the end of their shift the workers got out through another opening.

Before the U.S. launched its air war of destruction in North Viet Nam, there were in Nghe An only 20 small engineering stations but the number now exceeds 230.

Even in the flames of war, many enterprises have emerged in Nghe An to produce cement, coal, insecticides, paper, sugar, tea, tobacco, soap and so on.

Not only agricultural and industrial production but also cultural, artistic, medical and educational work in Nghe An have made big strides forward.

General education schools and classes have mushroomed at a high tempo. Every district is now provided with one or even two secondary schools. The first five-year plan of complementary education was fulfilled last year in the mountain district of Que Phong.

The workers and peasants in Nghe An have scored tremendous achievements just like the armed forces have recorded brilliant victories in their dauntless fighting. The U.S. tactics of massive air strikes has been foiled by the armed forces and people of the province. Nearly 300 U.S. aircraft have been shot down, many 7th Fleet warships sunk or set ablaze. The Nghe An armed forces and people are trying to raise the hunting of U.S. planes' to the level of a military art. Coming from whatever directions and flying at whatever altitudes, the marauding planes could not escape the thick fire network of the Nghe An fighters. With four rifles and six sub-machinegun bullets, the militia fighters in Dien Hung and Dien Ky succeeded in bringing down a U.S. jet. Dang Thi Thanh, plough woman, quickly turned herself into a skilful machine-gunner and A A gunner. She handles her machine-gun as easily as she does needlework. Together with the fighters in her village, she has knocked down three U.S. planes. Like Thanh, the women in Dai Lien who are skilful weaver of fishing nets and carpets are also good shots who have brought down U.S. aircraft on the sea of their native province. Alongside the militia, the artillery and shore battery men and women have inflicted harsh punishment on the U.S. aggressors wherever they perpetrate their crimes.

The U.S. air marauders have launched scores of attacks on the Vinh power station and hundreds of raids on the dams in Nghe An, but they have failed to stop the irrigation of ricefields by electric pumps.

The L.A.F. Are Victorious...

(Continued from page 8)

L.A.F. had experienced officers and a skilful tactics. He said: "As soldiers, we sincerely respect them." *(Reuter)*

On the night of Sept. 11, prior to those two battles apost of U.S. Marines in Chiem Son 10km southeast of Que Son was also stormed. The L.A.F. on the following night mortar shelled the sub-sector C.P. in Tam Ky town, inflicting great losses on the enemy.

In the L.A.F. attack on Nuoc Man airfield on the night of Aug. 27, 40 helicopters were destroyed and 150 G.I.'s killed or wounded, *G.P.X.* further reported.

NINH THUAN

FROM the beginning of Feb. 1966 to the end of July 1967, the army and people of Ninh Thuan province using light firearms downed 150 U.S. aircraft, including 20 jet fighters, 5 B.57 bombers and 30 L.19 reconnaissance planes, *GPX* reports d. In July 1967 alone, 42 planes were downed (31 by the guerillas).

MY THO

WITHIN 7 days ending Sept. 6, the L.A.F. conducted a series of attacks on the enemy communication lines in My Tho province, particularly the Strategic Highway 4 linking Saigon with the Mekong Delta provinces, *G.P.X.* said. Within a week, 800 enemy troops were put out of action, 39 military vehicles of various types, 2 motor boats destroyed or damaged, 19 blockhouses overrun or damaged, 4 bridges and culverts blown up and 100 "strategic hamlets" demolished.

The L.A.F. on Sept. 13 and 15 intercepted the U.S. troops who were raiding a locality about 25 km west of My Tho town, according to Western reports.

The enemy disclosed that 28 Yanks were killed or wounded on Sept. 13, and 106 on Sept. 15.

On Sept 15, the L.A.F. fired recoilless guns, machine-guns and rockets on armoured vehicles escorting flat-bottomed L.C.T. on Rach Ba river, killing or wounding 97 Yanks, hitting 8 armoured vehicles, carriers and vessels, setting ablaze 2 of them.

Reporting on the failure of the Sept. 15 American landing in a locality 26km west of My Tho town, *UPI* wrote on Sept. 17 that the Yankees suffered 140 casualties most of them Marines landing from attacking vessels; hidden behind bushes of trees or in swamps of reeds, the guerillas hit 16 craft (putting out of action 3).

AP said that 9 amphibious carriers, 3 landing craft and a command ship had been damaged.

AP went on to say that apart from such big incidents as the confiagration on the *Forrestall*, the casualties and material losses suffered by the U.S. Navy in this battle were the heaviest since it began to operate in the Mekong Delta.

CAN THO

ON the afternoon of Sept. 3 the L.A.F. shelled the enemy military port in Can The province, 120 km southeast of Saigon and heavily damaged 1 military craft.

TAN AN

ON the road from Saigon to My Tho province, on the night of Sept 2, the L.A.F. fiercely attacked the enemy "open arms" centre in Tan An town the second time. This centre was recently rebuilt after the L.A.F. assault in April last.

After 30 minutes' fighting, the L.A.F. were in complete control of the battlefield. The camp was overrun, over 200 thugs assigned to "open arms and pacification" task killed or wounded, 30 barracks, 4 posts and blockhouses demolished, 1 armoured troop carrier destroyed and another damaged.

The Vietnamese People...

(Continued from page 3)

Of late, U.N. Secretary-General U Thant has had to admit that the war can never be ended unless the U.S. and its allies (satellites-Ed.) recognize that the war is being carried out by the Vietnamese people and not a communist aggression, and that it is being fought to win national independence (UPI July 31, 1967).

In this respect, Norodom Sihanouk has held correct and ample views. At a press conference in Paris on Feb. 24, 1967, he said: "The Americans ask the Vietnamese to make concessions over the principles of independence, sovereignty and unity. This is definitely unacceptable to the Vietnamese people. One cannot sacrifice these principles for the sake of negotiations. As for Cambodia, we prefer death and would fight until the last man rather than accept negotiations to the prejudice of these principles... The U.S. has no right whatsoever to meddle into the internal affairs of other countries and it must leave Viet Nam unconditionally."

The Vietnamese people will pursue the course they have chosen, namely that they will exploit the victories they have won and, relying on the support of the people and progressive opinion in the world, firmly rush forward to completely defeat the U.S. aggressors, win the fundamental national rights and bring the cause of national liberation to completion.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

TO UNDERSTAND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WAR IN SOUTH VIET NAM

Please read:

South Viet Nam — Inevitable U.S. Military Defeat
by General VAN TIEN DUNG

South Viet Nam — Initial Failure of U.S. Limited War

South Viet Nam — Failure of U.S. Biggest Military Operation *(February — April 1967)*

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(Continued from page 4)

VICTORIES...

coordination and achieved brilliant exploits. Incontestably, the credit must also go to militia and self-defence units throughout North Viet Nam. Between Aug. 26 and Sept. 11, 20 enemy planes were grounded by low-altitude fire wall built by such units. On Aug. 30, Sept. 2 and 9, each day 2 U.S. aircraft were downed by these para-military forces. Many militia units even grounded enemy planes on night raids. This is a really heavy blow dealt at what the Pentagon has claimed as the greatest effort of the U.S. air force in improving its strike technique. The so-called U.S. air supremacy has been put to a hard trial.

Especially the downing of 2 B.52 strategic bombers over Vinh Linh on Sept. 17 has been a thundering blow to what remains of "U.S. air supremacy." For the first time, in a single combat, we knocked down 2 U.S. strategic bombers boastfully claimed to be "the backbone of the strike force of U.S. Strategic Air Command." For the first time, North Viet Nam's heavy anti-aircraft defence units blasted to pieces two of the costliest U.S. stratofortresses.

Over the last two years, the Pentagon has been raising a hullabaloo about the B.52 bogey, describing it as "a new factor that turns the tide" and a "type of aircraft that would help Westmoreland see the light at the end of the tunnel." The Sept. 17 victory of Vinh Linh and the fight of the South Vietnamese people which is going on victoriously in defiance of the more than ten thousand sorties of B.52's have been a statement of bankruptcy for Washington's attempt to cow our people through B.52 bombings.

Facts have over recent days proved once again that our people's war will surely prevail over the U.S. aggressive war which counts on most up-to-date weapons and means.

THE daily routine in North Viet Nam has also shown that no amount of U.S. brutal force can dampen our people's will and determination to fight and to win. On all battlefronts, our armed forces have seen unprecedented growth. Furthermore, production and construction keep going. Vast ricefields dockholed with craters by U.S. bombs and shells remain green under the summer-autumn rice as the emulation drive is in full swing to attain the 5-ton mark against U.S. aggression as a contribution to the resistance for national salvation. New factories have sprung up in various regions in honour of the 22nd anniversary of the foundingof the D.R.V.N. Over 100,000 teachers and 3,000,000 pupils of general education have began their new school year. In Haiphong port, factories continue to operate under U.S. bombing. Traffic remains open on all communication lines throughout the length and breadth of our country. All ports are bustling with activity, day and night. Between waves of B52 bombing raids, life follows its course on the ricefields, at evening classes, in kindergartens, surrounded by air-raid shelters, in the Vinh Linh area.

THE victory of the Vietnamese people and the failure of the enemy in his new escalations have further aggravated his present stalemate. The new steps taken by the new escalations have brought them still heavier and more damaging setbacks. They are ranting about "striking at remaining targets" in North Viet Nam to test our people's nerves. We have on more than one occasion told Johnson and company that "The Vietnamese people will not be intimidated. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" (President Ho Chi Minh's July 17, 1966 appeal).

Our people are fully prepared to overcome all hardships and difficulties and make all necessary sacrifices in order to inflict complete defeat on the U.S. aggressor.

Our people's feelings, aspirations and resolve have again found clear expression in President Ho Chi Minh's recent letter to Mr. Nguyen Van Thieu:

"Neither bombs nor shells can cow our people, and no wily words can deceive them. We, Vietnamese, are resolved to fight till not a single U.S. aggressor remains on our beloved land."

QUE SON...

(Continued from page 8)

suffered heavy losses: 3 battalions, 4 companies and 6 platoons were annihilated, 4 battalions heavily depleted, 95 planes shot down or destroyed on the ground, 88 tanks, armoured vehicles and 20 other military vehicles destroyed. 6 puppet companies were wiped out and 5 puppet platoons sustained heavy casualties.

At the beginning of August 1967, the U.S. command sent Paratroop Brigade 101 to the *Oregon* shock forces to the rescue of the Marines near the Que Son valley. After three days, from August 1 to 13, 1967, 1 infantry company and 1 artillery company of Brigade 101 were nearly wiped out, 8 planes shot down, 5 cannons destroyed, 2 puppet battalions put out of action or badly mauled.

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THE QUE SON BATTLE
(Sept. 4 — 6)

AFTER the bitter failure of these two joint Operations *Lien Ket*, a U.S. Marine company conducted an operation on September 4 from Que Son district capital to Chau Nhb (12 kilometres southwest of Thung Binh) to probe the L.A.F. strength. In spite of its precautions, the leading platoon fell into an ambush laid on the other bank of the Ly Ly river, and was wiped out in a few minutes. Planes came immediately to the rescue of the company but its remains were badly beaten. The survivors took to their heels.

On the afternoon of September 4 the hellilifted U.S. Marine Regiment 5 landed on Dong Daung, 5 kilometres southwest of Thang Binh, and split into two detachments, with a view to encircling and wiping out L.A.F. units at Chau Nho by Road 46. Realizing the enemy's plan, the L.A.F. struck blow after blow at the assailants. Carrying out a carefully worked out operational plan, the L.A.F. units co-operated closely with one another. When the enemy's formations fell into the ambush, they were cut to pieces by the L.A.F. Threatened by A.A units, enemy planes failed to protect the G.I.'s. Showing great heroism and versatility, the L.A.F. wiped out in 15 minutes 2 U.S. Marine companies and the Marine Battalion headquarters, shot down 4 planes, and decimated a fleeing company.

On September 6, the U.S. command gathered 5 companies of Regiment 5 (Marine Division 1) which was to move from Lac Son (6 kilometres south southwest of Que Son) along Highway 46 and to occupy Height 47 (6 kilometres southeast of Que Son) and the Vinh Huy market. It planned to control again this area, and limit L.A.F. activities, preparing for a new military action. The U.S. troops moved cautiously, harassed by guerillas. Hardly had it arrived when, on the night of September 6, the L.A.F. came running from a long distance and attacked Height 47 and the Vinh Huy market. Rushing from many directions, they encircled and cut off enemy units, wiping out 3 U.S. companies after an engagement of a little over one hour. Surprised without defence works, the U.S. Marines were not able to fight back, the survivors fled to Xuan Thai, pursued by L.A.F. combatants who caused new casualties.

According to a *Reuter* correspondent, M.16 rifles without men to use them filled two big chiets, heaps of steel helmets and boots were as high as haystacks; U.S. helicopters flew to and fro to carry away dead or wounded Marines. The number of dead and wounded surpassed that of survivors. Never had so many U.S. Marines been killed.

Thus, in three days (September 4 to 6), the people and L.A.F. of Que Son badly mauled Marine Regiment 5; 7 companies and a battalion command were wiped out or heavily depleted.

22nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST RESISTANCE WAR IN SOUTH VIET NAM

(Sept. 23, 1945)

BRASS WALL OF THE FATHERLAND

ON Sept. 23, 1945, protected by the British-Indian troops coming to disarm the Japanese troops in the southern part of Indo-China, the French colonialists who had been toppled, staged a come-back and started hostilities in Saigon. Later, they extended the conflict to other provinces in the coastal fringe of southermost Central Viet Nam and the Western High Plateaux. Their scheme was to seize a half of our country, set up an "autonomous Cochinchinese state" and a "Tay Ky state" in line with their customary divide-and-rule tactics, and later on occupy the whole of our country and reimpose their domination on us.

At that time the D.R.V.N. had just come into being, and people's power had just been established in the South. Yet, under the slogans "Independence or Death!" and "South Viet Nam is Viet Nam's territory!" the people stood up to resist the aggressors. Armed with rudimentary weapons, mainly bamboo spears, the people's armed forces fought against French troops assisted by British, Indian and Japanese troops, in the very streets of Saigon, Nha Trang and other cities, and inflicted many losses on them. On Dec. 20, 1946 the war spread to the whole of Viet Nam.

In the first days of the resistance, with ardent patriotism the South Vietnamese armed forces and people put up a remarkably courageous fight. Militia units fearlessly confronted Gen. Leclerc's tank units in the famous battles at Thi Nghe Bridge in Saigon or in northern Ban Me Thuot. In this fighting many heroes emerged. Ten-year-old Le Van Tam made himself a living torch and burned down an enemy petrol depot in the very heart of Saigon. Elite fighter Ngo May rushed with a bomb into, a moving enemy tank on Highway 19 and blew it up, thus bringing the whole enemy convoy to a stop. These heroic feats gave a strong impetus to the people's fighting throughout the length and breadth of our country.

Hardly had the anti-French resistance flared up in South Viet Nam, when a stirring "March to the South" movement spread in North and Central Viet Nam. Tens of thousands of young men and women voluntarily joined the army to go South and fight shoulder to shoulder with their fellow countrymen there.

South Viet Nam was the first to resist French aggression and in the nine years' fighting, recorded many resounding victories in the battles of La Nga, Plain of Reeds, Hai Van Pass and others on all battlefields from Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper) to the Western High Plateaux and the coastal fringe of Central Viet Nam. In particular, in the Winter 1953–Spring 1954 Campaign, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people foiled the famous Operation *Atlante* conceived by General Navarre, by completely wiping out Mobile Group 100 nicknamed Korea Group (with a battalion as its hard-core unit, this mobile group had fought the Korean war besides American G.I.'s). These successes were worthy contributions to the main battlefield in North Viet Nam, giving rise to the historic victory of Dien Bien Phu.

In 1950, Saigon citizens took to the streets in protest against U.S. intervention, and triggered off a nation-wide anti-U.S. movement. Since 1954, South Viet Nam has never ceased struggling against the rule of Washington's lackeys set up along with a system of U.S. "advisers" and a network of U.S. military bases. The local armed forces and people brought Washington's "special war" to failure and are now defeating the aggression by more than half a million U.S. expeditionary and satellite troops.

For nearly thirty years running, with an unshakable will and an indomitable spirit, from generation to generation, the people of South Viet Nam have waged an extremely heroic armed and political struggle for independence and freedom.

From now on, implementing the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme, the banner of broad national union, the heroic people of South Viet Nam will win ever greater victories.

South Viet Nam has proved to well deserve the title "Brass Wall of the Fatherland" bestowed on it by the entire people in the last resistance war.

As solid as a rock, ★ has never yielded to the enemy's brutal force and continues to advance along the road to victory and to complete national liberation.

SOUTH Viet Nam

THE L.A.F. ARE VICTORIOUS ON ALL BATTLEFIELDS

QUANG TRI

AFTER wiping out 300 G.I.'s at Bai Son (Sept. 7), the L.A.F. three following days later, won a greater victory at Ho Khe, 6km from Con Tien and 3km south of Bai Son, *G.P.N.* reported.

At 1 p.m. on Sept. 10, U.S. Marine Battalion 3, Regiment 26, moved from Bai Son to Ho Khe in 2 columns. At 1.40 p.m., one of these columns fell into a L.A.F. ambush and was badly depleted. The second column rushing to its rescue met with the same fate.

The L.A.F. close-range fighting tactics prevented the enemy artillery in nearby bases and air force from taking direct action to rescue the beleagured U.S. Marines. They were at most able to strafe the places around the battlefield.

Preliminary reports said that the L.A.F. killed or wounded over 500 G.I.'s, destroyed 10 tanks and armoured troop carriers, shot down 3 planes and helicopters, seized a great quantity of arms and military equipment.

Two days later, on the night of Sept. 12, the L.A.F. attacked Con Tien, the U.S. C.P.s of military sub-sector in Quang Tri town, the C.P. of puppet Regiment 1 in La Vang (5km south of Quang Tri) and the Hai Lang C.P. (10km southeast of Quang Tri). The enemy admitted that in Con Tien alone, 97 men of U.S. Marine Regiment 9 were killed or wounded.

THUA THIEN

ON Sept. 3, the L.A.F. intercepted the leading company of a battalion of puppet Regiment 3 at Phu Gia village, Phu Vang district: 40 puppet troops wiped out, the lieutenant and the sub-lieutenant commanding the company were killed.

On Sept. 5, a U.S. battalion covered by a group of M.113 armoured cars, raiding Phu Thai hamlet (Phu Vang districts) in three columns, was attacked by the L.A.F. who wiped out nearly 100 men, set afire or damaged 4 M.113s and downed a chopper. On Sept. 7 two puppet battalions and 16 M.113s coming to the rescue of the battered U.S. battalion were intercepted: 60 puppet soldiers were killed, many others wounded, 2 M.113s set ablaze and one HU-1A helicopter downed.

According to still incomplete figures, in the same three days the L.A.F. of Thua Thien province put out of action over 300 enemy troops, set afire or damaged 6 M.113 armoured cars and downed 2 choppers.

QUANG NAM

IN spite of two heavy defeats suffered at Que Son 40km west-northwest of Tam Ky, Quang Nam province, on Sept. 4 and 6, the U.S. Marines, paratroops of U.S. Division 101 and puppet Rangers launched a new raid on Que Son on Sept. 12.

According to the enemy reports, early on the morning of Sept. 13, a detachment of U. S. Marines was almost completely put out of action some 30km west of Tam Ky town. On the night of Sept. 13 and early on the morning of Sept. 14, the L.A.F. assaulted one battalion of puppet Rangers in the same place and virtually wiped out the whole unit.

Arthur Poillon, lieutenant colonel, admitted that the

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QUE SON, VALE OF DEATH FOR U.S. MARINES

● *In 3 Days:* **7 U.S. Companies and one U.S. Battalion Staff Wiped Out or Badly Mauled.**

QUE SON district, a "vale of death" for U.S. Marines, forms with Dai Loc district to the north and Tien Phuoc district to the south an important strategic area joining the Truong Son Range to the west to the coastal plain to the east.

The U. S. command has always regarded — particularly during the recent period — these districts as a constant threat to its bases along Highway 1 and in the littoral. Over a short period from the end of August 1967 to date, a series of bases and posts in Quang Nam province have successively been attacked. Da Nang airbase was struck on the night of September 2, Nuoc Man airstrip on August 27, Tam Ky township on the nights of September 1 and 5, Hoi An township on the night of August 26, a logistic base and a U.S. Marine post respectively 6 and 10 kilometres from Da Nang on the night of September 1, the Go Thong stronghold on the night of August 28. Raiding Duy Xuyen district near Highway 1, 10 kilometres south of Quang Nam provincial capital, a puppet battalion and 300 G.I.'s were wiped out from August 1 to 3. No wonder that the Marines' attacks on Que Son resulted in heavy casualties.

Successful L.A.F. attacks on enemy bases and posts in Quang Nam have cost U.S. Marines a still higher toll of casualties at Que Son.

No matter what the American troops may try, they cannot extricate themselves from their defensive position but only sink ever deeper into their quagmire.

A FERTILE VALLEY AND A STRATEGIC AREA

LYING in a large valley west of Quang Nam, Que Son district is watered by the Ly Ly river and joined to Highway 1 and the railway by Road 46 and a road from the district capital to Xuan Lu. Rich and densely populated, it abounds in agricultural and forest produce (rice, maize, cinnamon, wood) and in mineral resources such as kaolin, lead, zinc, gold at Bong Mieu and coal at Nong Son. Japanese and West German capitalists have been allowed to invest money in the area with a view to turning Nong Son into an industrial centre serving the U.S. aggressive war and ranking second after the Thu Duc (Bien Hoa) industrial area.

In spite of telling blows repeatedly dealt at them for the past three years, the U.S. imperialists had been dreaming of occupying this rich valley and important strategic area at any price.

But what they met with was only death and destruction.

TWO OPERATIONS *LIEN KET* COME TO A FLOP

BADLY mauled in their second dry-season counter-offensive, American troops started on April 21, 1967 a large-scale operation on Que Son in the hope of improving the situation along Highway 1. This Operation *Lien Ket* — a U.S.-puppet one — fielded 2 U.S. Marine regiments, 2 puppet regiments (No 5 and No 6) and 2 battalions of puppet Rangers, supported by hundreds of planes, tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery.

In co-ordination with the people and the L.A.F. of Quang Nam, those of Que Son smashed the enemy operation, putting out of action 7,500 men among them 5,295 G.I.'s. The American Marines

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